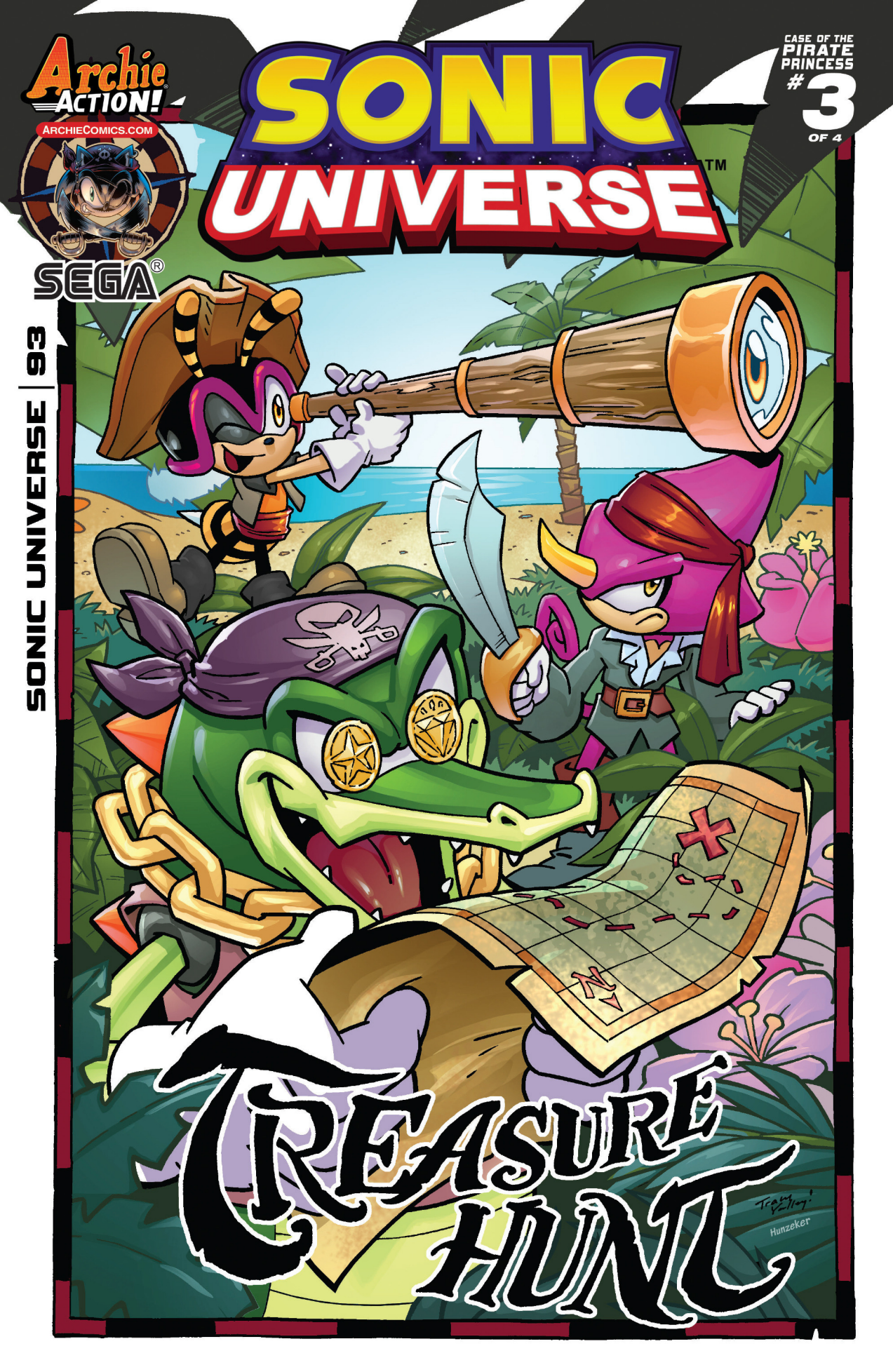
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SONIC UNIVERSE™
CASE OF THE PIRATE PRINCESS #3 OF 4
TREASURE HUNT
Tracy Yardley
Hunzeker

Welcome to the Sonic Comic Universe—a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games!
Where Team Chaotix are playing as "pirates" to rescue a princess who doesn't want to be rescued!

CHARACTER SELECT

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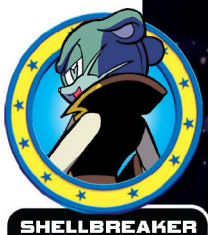
CHAOTIX LEADER

ESPIO & CHARMY
NINJA AND FLIER

UNDINA
PRINCESS OF MEROPIS



SHELLBREAKER
CAPTAIN OF THE *SETTING DAWN*

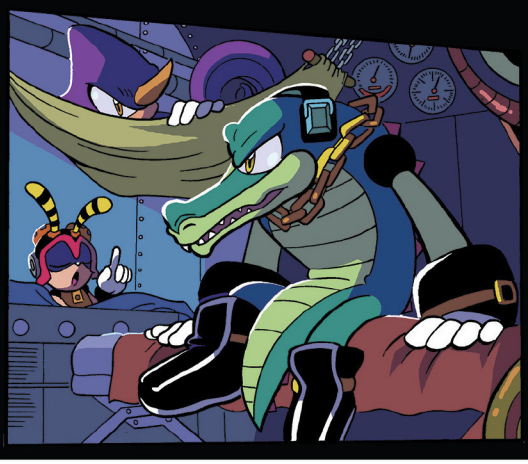
THE STORY SO FAR...

ROCKING THE BOAT

It was your average day for the Chaotix Detective Agency—worrying about paying the rent, waiting for a case to appear, and killing the time day-dreaming about both. But then adventure called when Lt. Echo of the Meropis City Guard asked for their help—their princess had been kidnapped by pirates!

The investigation was brief, and our goofy gumshoes wound up the prisoners of the very pirates they were looking for! But thanks to some quick thinking from Vector, they infiltrated the crew by joining it!

Now comes the dangerous balancing act of keeping up appearances without tipping their hand...



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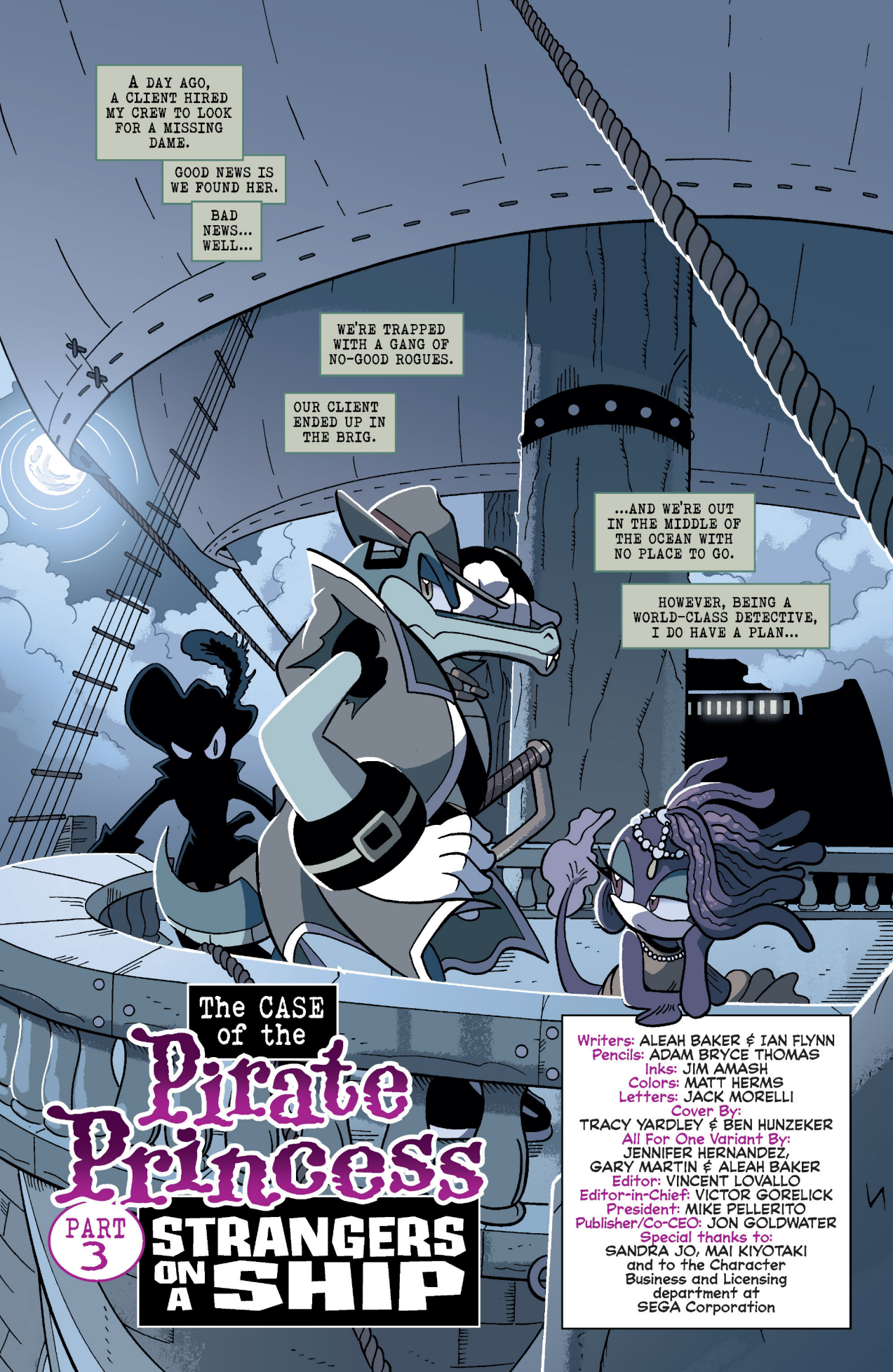
A DAY AGO, A CLIENT HIRED MY CREW TO LOOK FOR A MISSING DAME.
GOOD NEWS IS WE FOUND HER.
BAD NEWS... WELL...
WE'RE TRAPPED WITH A GANG OF NO-GOOD ROGUES.
OUR CLIENT ENDED UP IN THE BRIG.
...AND WE'RE OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN WITH NO PLACE TO GO.
HOWEVER, BEING A WORLD-CLASS DETECTIVE, I DO HAVE A PLAN...

The CASE of the Pirate Princess

PART 3 STRANGERS ON A SHIP

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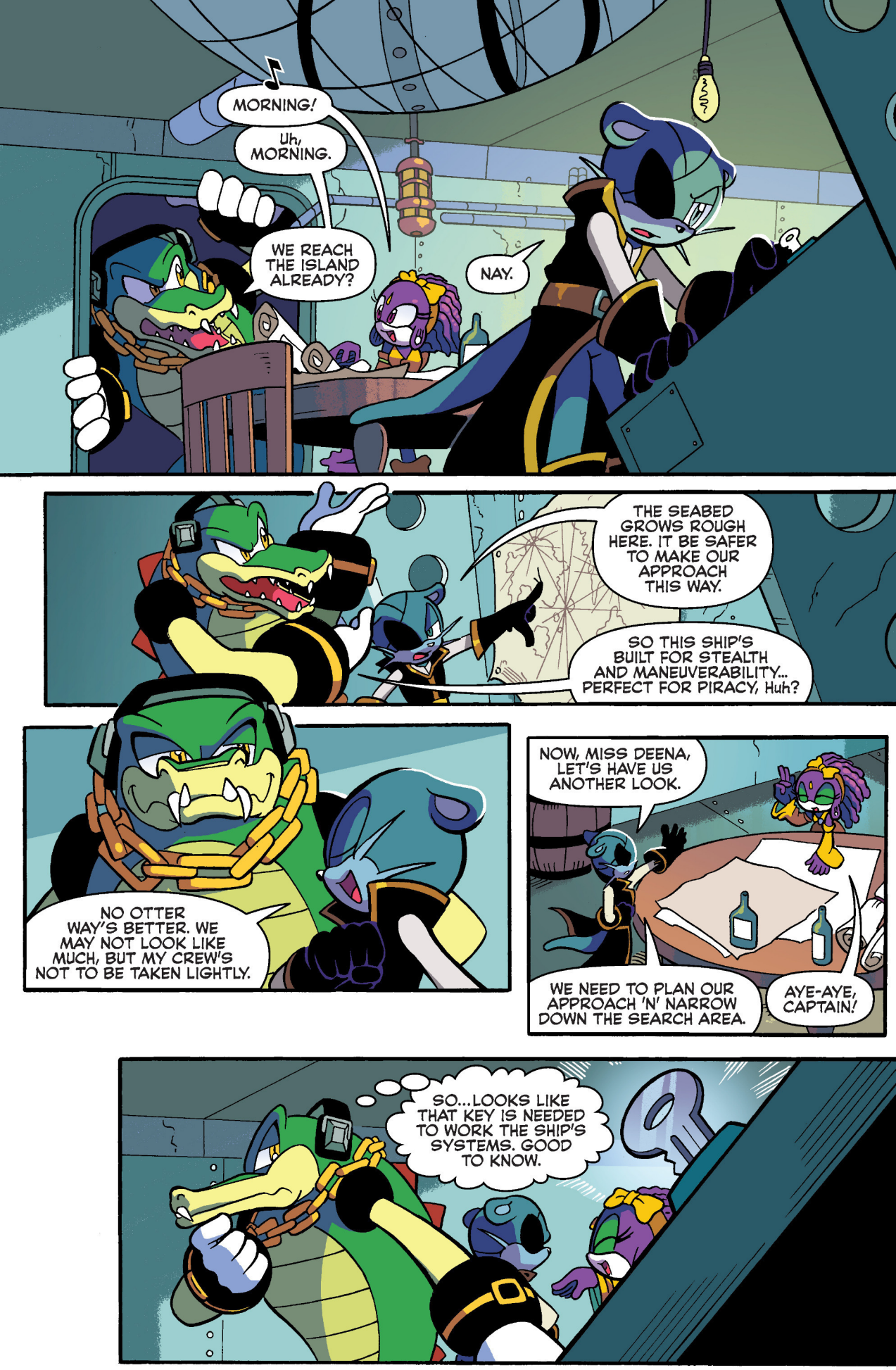
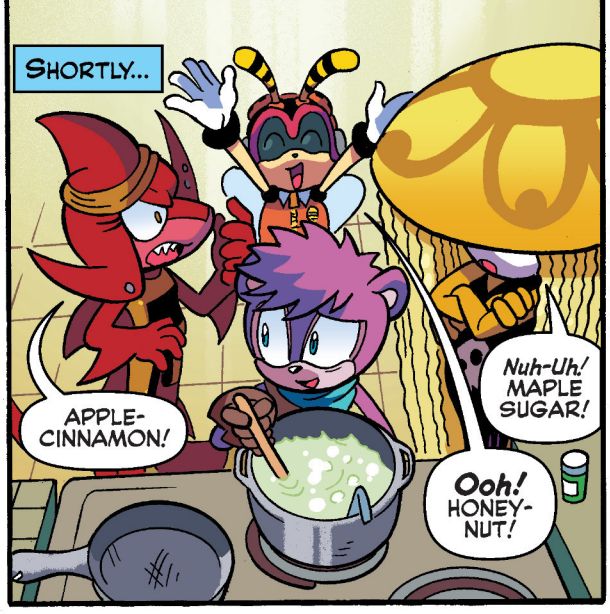
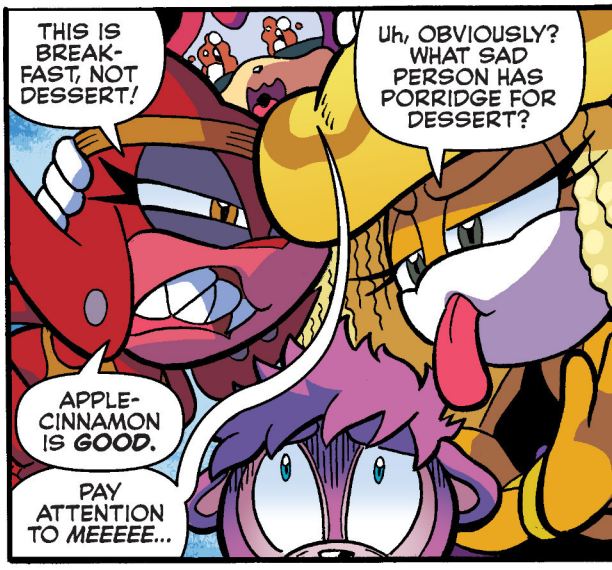
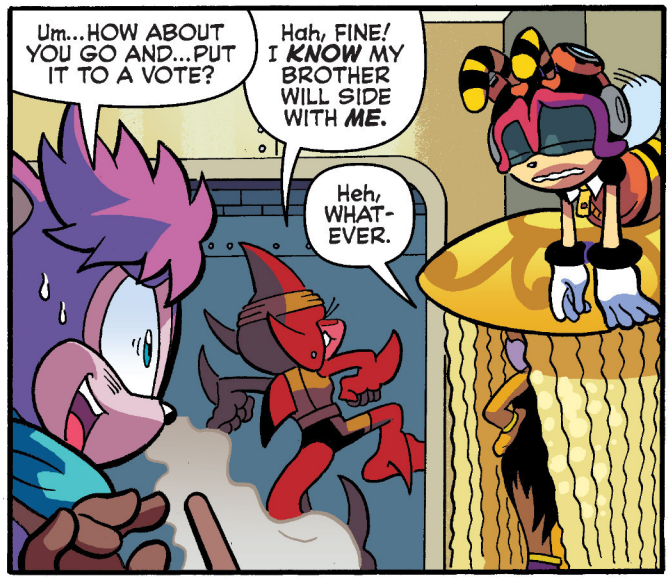
WELL, PART OF A PLAN.
THREE-FIFTHS OF A PLAN.
RRUMBLE

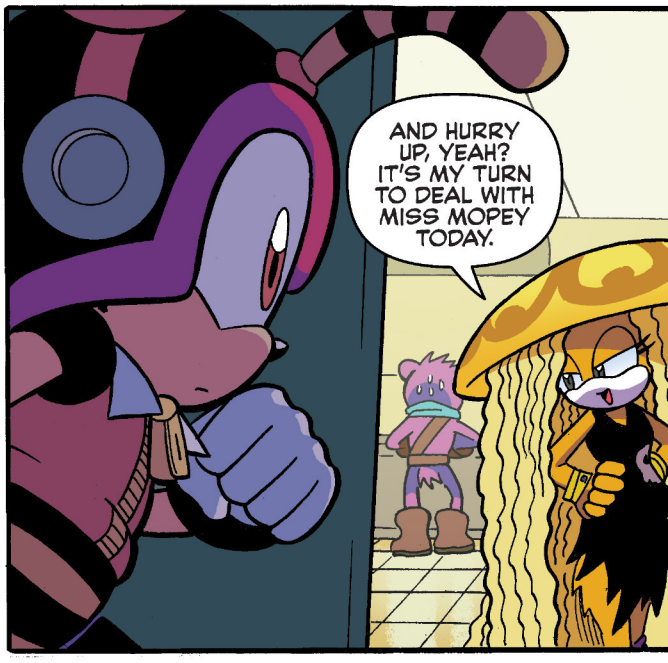

MORNING!
Uh, MORNING.
WE REACH THE ISLAND ALREADY?
NAY.
THE SEABED GROWS ROUGH HERE. IT BE SAFER TO MAKE OUR APPROACH THIS WAY.
SO THIS SHIP'S BUILT FOR STEALTH AND MANEUVERABILITY... PERFECT FOR PIRACY, Huh?
NO OTTER WAY'S BETTER. WE MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH, BUT MY CREW'S NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.
NOW, MISS DEENA, LET'S HAVE US ANOTHER LOOK.
WE NEED TO PLAN OUR APPROACH 'N' NARROW DOWN THE SEARCH AREA.
AYE-AYE, CAPTAIN!
SO...LOOKS LIKE THAT KEY IS NEEDED TO WORK THE SHIP'S SYSTEMS. GOOD TO KNOW.

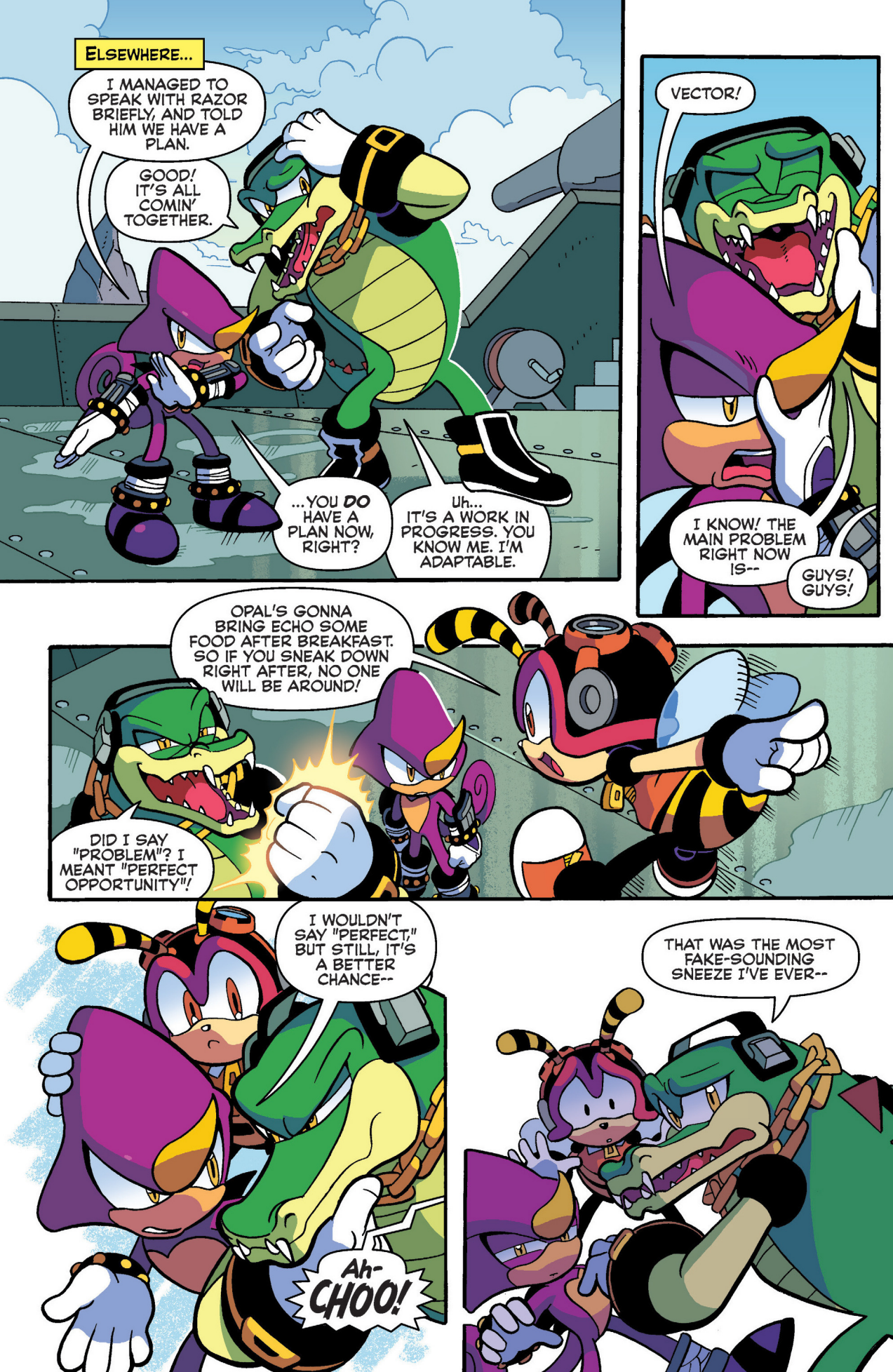

SHORTLY...
APPLE-CINNAMON!
Nuh-Uh! MAPLE SUGAR!
Ooh! HONEY-NUT!


THIS IS BREAK-FAST, NOT DESSERT!
Uh, OBVIOUSLY? WHAT SAD PERSON HAS PORRIDGE FOR DESSERT?
APPLE-CINNAMON IS GOOD.
PAY ATTENTION TO MEEEEE...


Um...HOW ABOUT YOU GO AND...PUT IT TO A VOTE?
Hah, FINE! I KNOW MY BROTHER WILL SIDE WITH ME.
Heh, WHAT-EVER.

MAPLE.
SUGAR.
KLIK


AND HURRY UP, YEAH? IT'S MY TURN TO DEAL WITH MISS MOPEY TODAY.

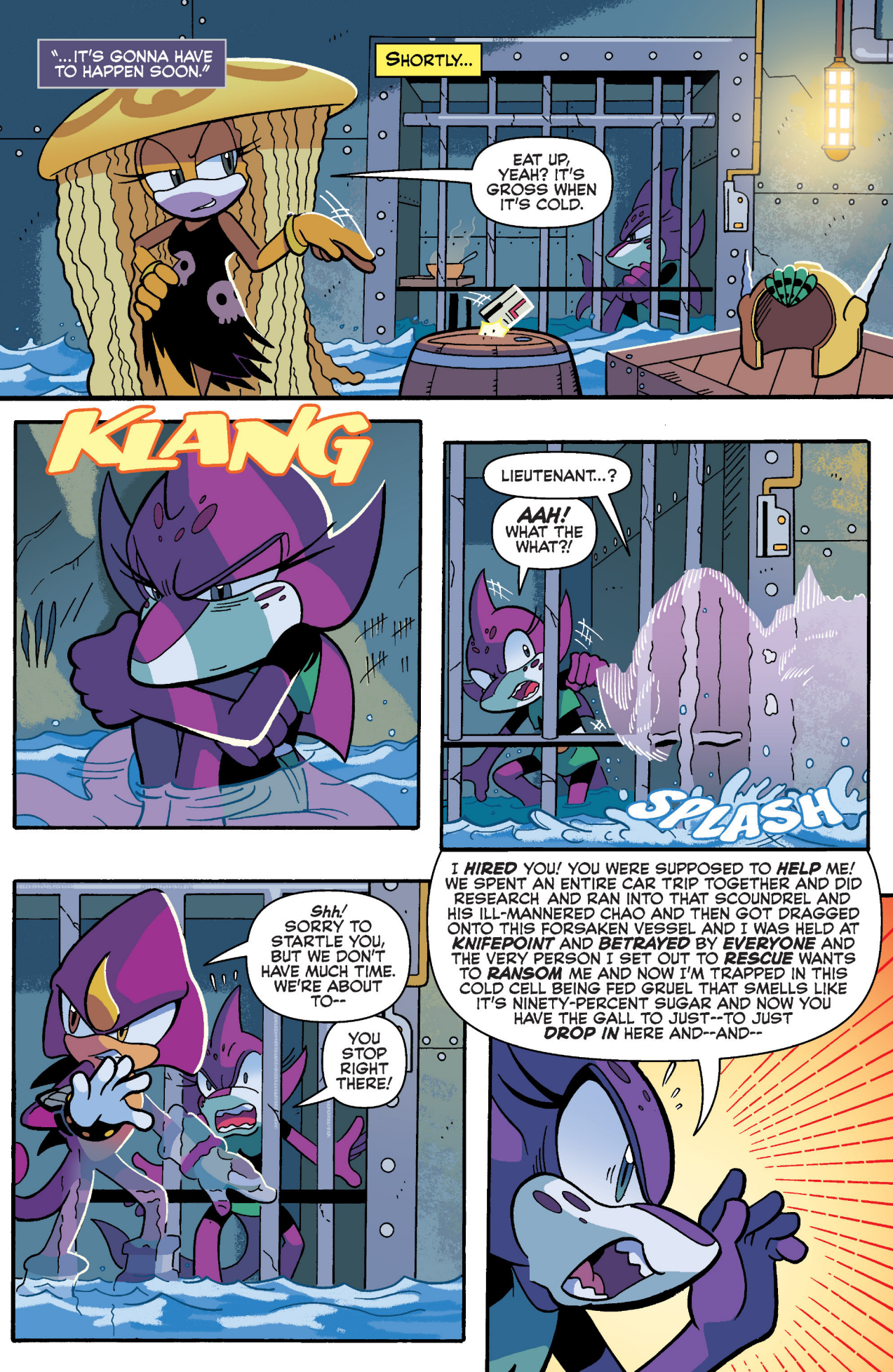

ELSEWHERE...
I MANAGED TO SPEAK WITH RAZOR BRIEFLY, AND TOLD HIM WE HAVE A PLAN.
GOOD! IT'S ALL COMIN' TOGETHER.
...YOU DO HAVE A PLAN NOW, RIGHT?
Uh... IT'S A WORK IN PROGRESS. YOU KNOW ME. I'M ADAPTABLE.
VECTOR!
I KNOW! THE MAIN PROBLEM RIGHT NOW IS--
GUYS! GUYS!
OPAL'S GONNA BRING ECHO SOME FOOD AFTER BREAKFAST. SO IF YOU SNEAK DOWN RIGHT AFTER, NO ONE WILL BE AROUND!
DID I SAY "PROBLEM"? I MEANT "PERFECT OPPORTUNITY"!
I WOULDN'T SAY "PERFECT," BUT STILL, IT'S A BETTER CHANCE--
Ah- CHOO!
THAT WAS THE MOST FAKE-SOUNDING SNEEZE I'VE EVER--

...Ah.
WHAT'RE YOU THREE UP TO?
Oh, YOU KNOW, JUST...
TELLING JOKES! FUNNY JOKES!
Oh? LET'S HEAR.
O-OF COURSE! SURE! Uh...SO...OKAY, A SPY, A ROBOT AND A GRUMPY SCIENCE EXPERIMENT GO TO THE BEACH AND--
BWAHAHAHAHA!!
CHARMY. THAT. WASN'T. THE PUNCHLINE.
Oh. DID YOU COME UP WITH ONE YET?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
I MEAN--NOT AN ACTUAL JOKE-- BECAUSE THAT WASN'T--
Ugh, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN! WHAT--

HEEEEEY! LIKE, I JUST REALIZED-- I TOTALLY KNOW YOU!
YES? WE...MET YESTER-DAY?
NO, SILLY! I MEAN, LIKE, I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE? BACK IN EMPIRE CITY!
...O-Oh?
YEAH, YOU KNOW, IN THE TOURNAMENT THINGY? YOU TOTALLY LOST TO THAT SILLY GREEN BIRD GUY? 'CAUSE YOU FELL OUT OF THE RING?
Oh, HEY! I SAW THAT MATCH! I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS YOU!
Y-YOU'RE BOTH MISTAKEN. I WOULD NEVER BE DEFEATED SO SHAME-FULLY.
THIS...COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON CLEARLY NEEDS TO WORK ON THEIR DISCIPLINE, THOUGH.
OKAY, YOU GUYS ARE ALL RIDICULOUS AND I NEED TO STOP OPAL FROM RUINING BREAKFAST, SO--
DING, DING DING

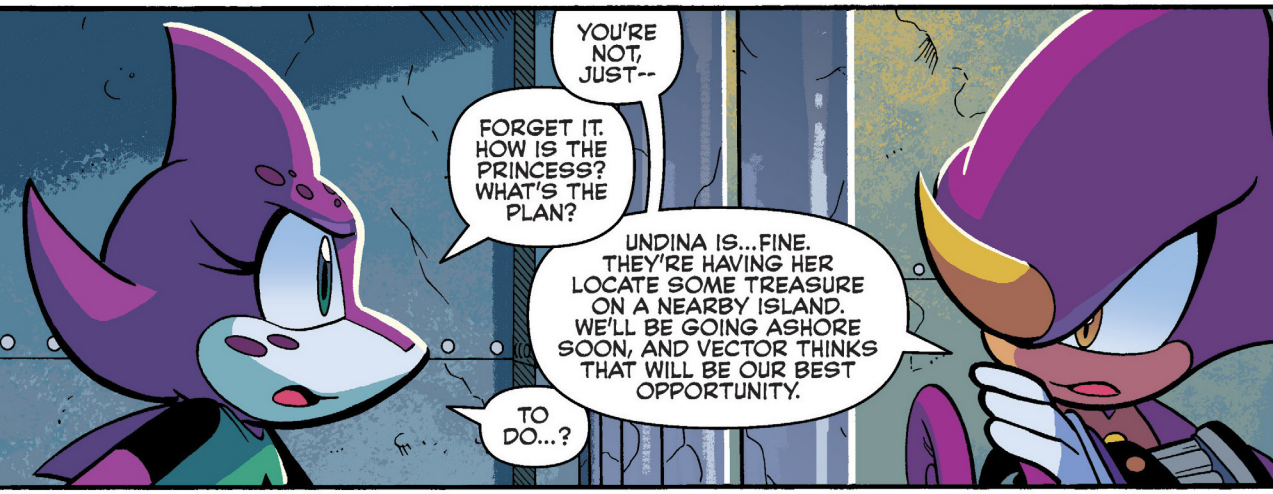
--ANNND I'M TOO LATE. GREAT.
Whew. THOUGHT WE WERE IN TROUBLE THERE FOR A SEC. LUCKY BREAK, Huh?
Oh, YES!
TOTALLY LUCKY.
ALL RIGHT, YOU LOT, LISTEN UP. WE'LL BE HEADIN' OUT NOT TOO LONG FROM NOW. A GREAT TREASURE AWAITS US ON YONDER ISLAND.
NOW, WE MAY BE A SMALL CREW...
WE MAY HAVE BUT THIS ONE VESSEL, AND FEW WEAPONS...
WE MAY HAVE BEEN OTTERLY BETRAYED BY OUR FORMER ALLIES, OUR VERY FAMILY...
Ah, CAP'N? YER SOUNDIN' A WEE BIT ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE...
I BE MAKIN' A POINT HERE.
Good Mornin' Beautiful

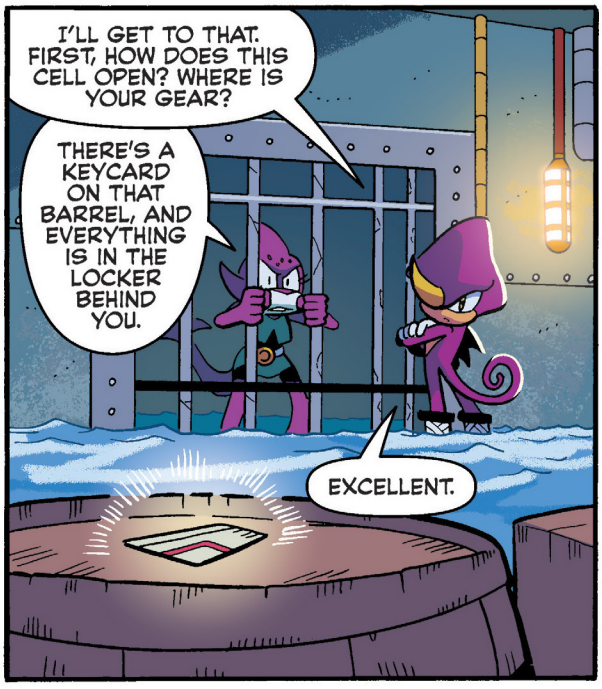
Beautiful
BUT FROM THESE DARK DEPTHS, WE ARISE ANEW!
WE HAVE NEW CREW-MATES!
YEAH! ARR! AVAST!
HURRAH.
WE HAVE A RETURNING CREWMATE!
AND WE HAVE THE SEACHARTS THAT THE TRAITOR ABYSS THOUGHT WORTHLESS! SEA-CHARTS WE'VE DECIPHERED WHERE SHE FAILED!
ANCIENT TREASURE IS OURS FOR THE TAKING, AND OURS ALONE!
ME CREW, ME FRIENDS-- WE WALK A PATH OF RICHES AND GLORY! AND THOUGH THEY MAY TRY, NONE SHALL DIVERT US FROM OUR COURSE!
HEAR HEAR! WHOOO!
Huh...GUY REALLY KNOWS HOW TO HYPE UP A CROWD.
Oh, SURE. HE'S REALLY CHARISMATIC...
...UNTIL HE'S NOT.
WHATEVER YOU'RE PLANNING...

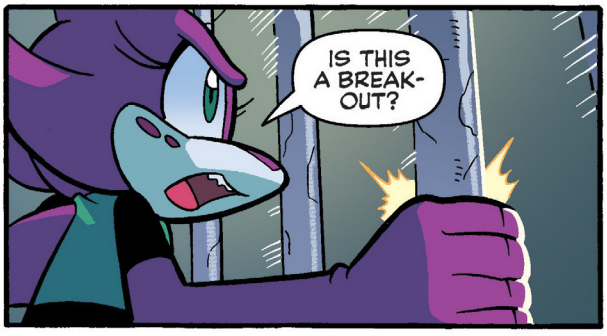

"...IT'S GONNA HAVE TO HAPPEN SOON."
SHORTLY...
EAT UP, YEAH? IT'S GROSS WHEN IT'S COLD.
KLANG
LIEUTENANT...?
AAH! WHAT THE WHAT?!
SPLASH
Shh! SORRY TO STARTLE YOU, BUT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. WE'RE ABOUT TO--
YOU STOP RIGHT THERE!
I HIRED YOU! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO HELP ME! WE SPENT AN ENTIRE CAR TRIP TOGETHER AND DID RESEARCH AND RAN INTO THAT SCOUNDREL AND HIS ILL-MANNERED CHAO AND THEN GOT DRAGGED ONTO THIS FORSAKEN VESSEL AND I WAS HELD AT KNIFEPOINT AND BETRAYED BY EVERYONE AND THE VERY PERSON I SET OUT TO RESCUE WANTS TO RANSOM ME AND NOW I'M TRAPPED IN THIS COLD CELL BEING FED GRUEL THAT SMELLS LIKE IT'S NINETY-PERCENT SUGAR AND NOW YOU HAVE THE GALL TO JUST--TO JUST DROP IN HERE AND--AND--

LIEUTENANT--IT WAS A TRICK! IF WE HADN'T PRETENDED TO JOIN THEM WE WOULD HAVE ALL ENDED UP IN HERE-- OR WORSE.

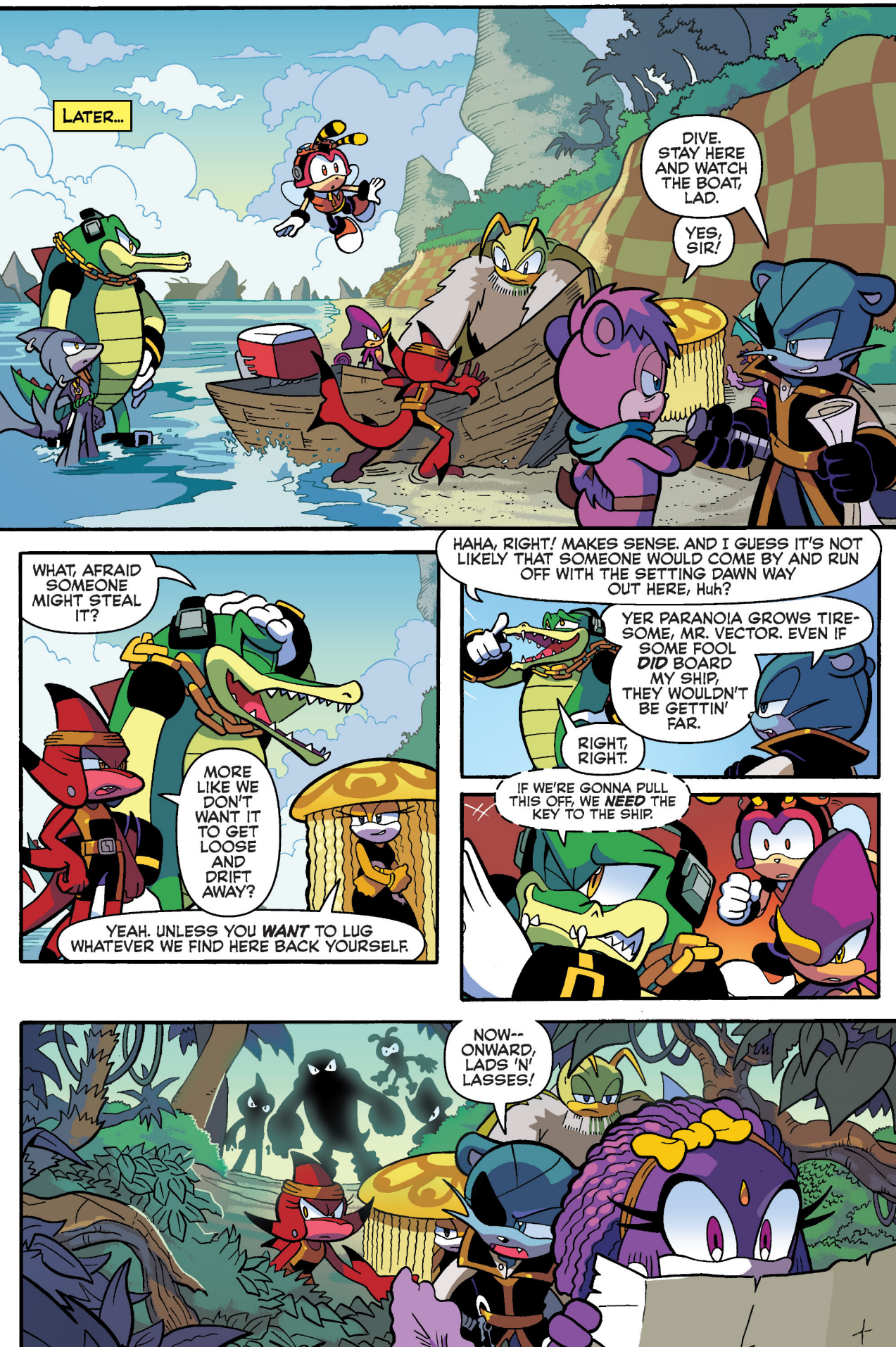
...Oh.
WELL I AM JUST A GRAND FOOL.

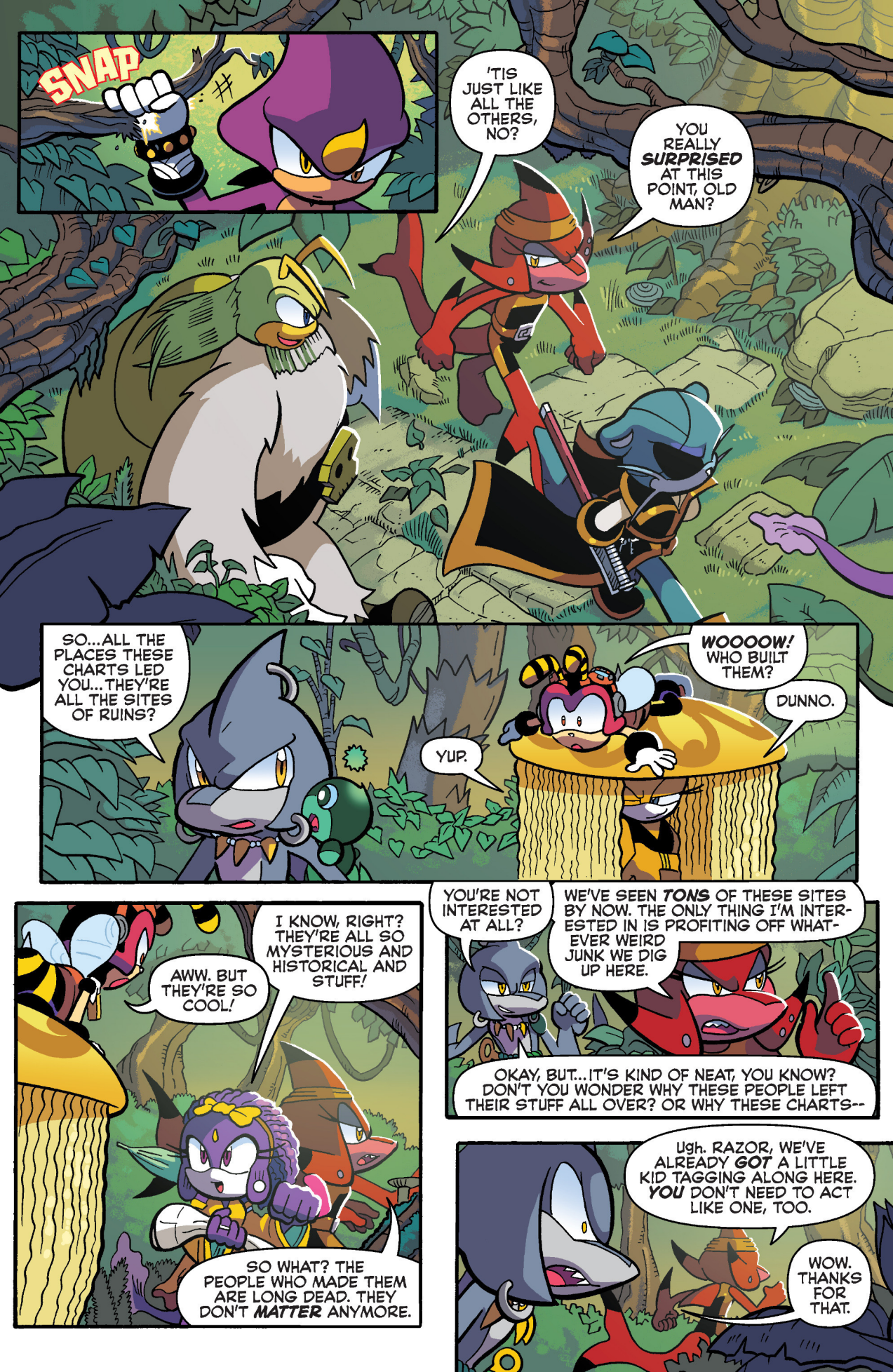

YOU'RE NOT, JUST--
FORGET IT. HOW IS THE PRINCESS? WHAT'S THE PLAN?
UNDINA IS...FINE. THEY'RE HAVING HER LOCATE SOME TREASURE ON A NEARBY ISLAND. WE'LL BE GOING ASHORE SOON, AND VECTOR THINKS THAT WILL BE OUR BEST OPPORTUNITY.
TO DO...?

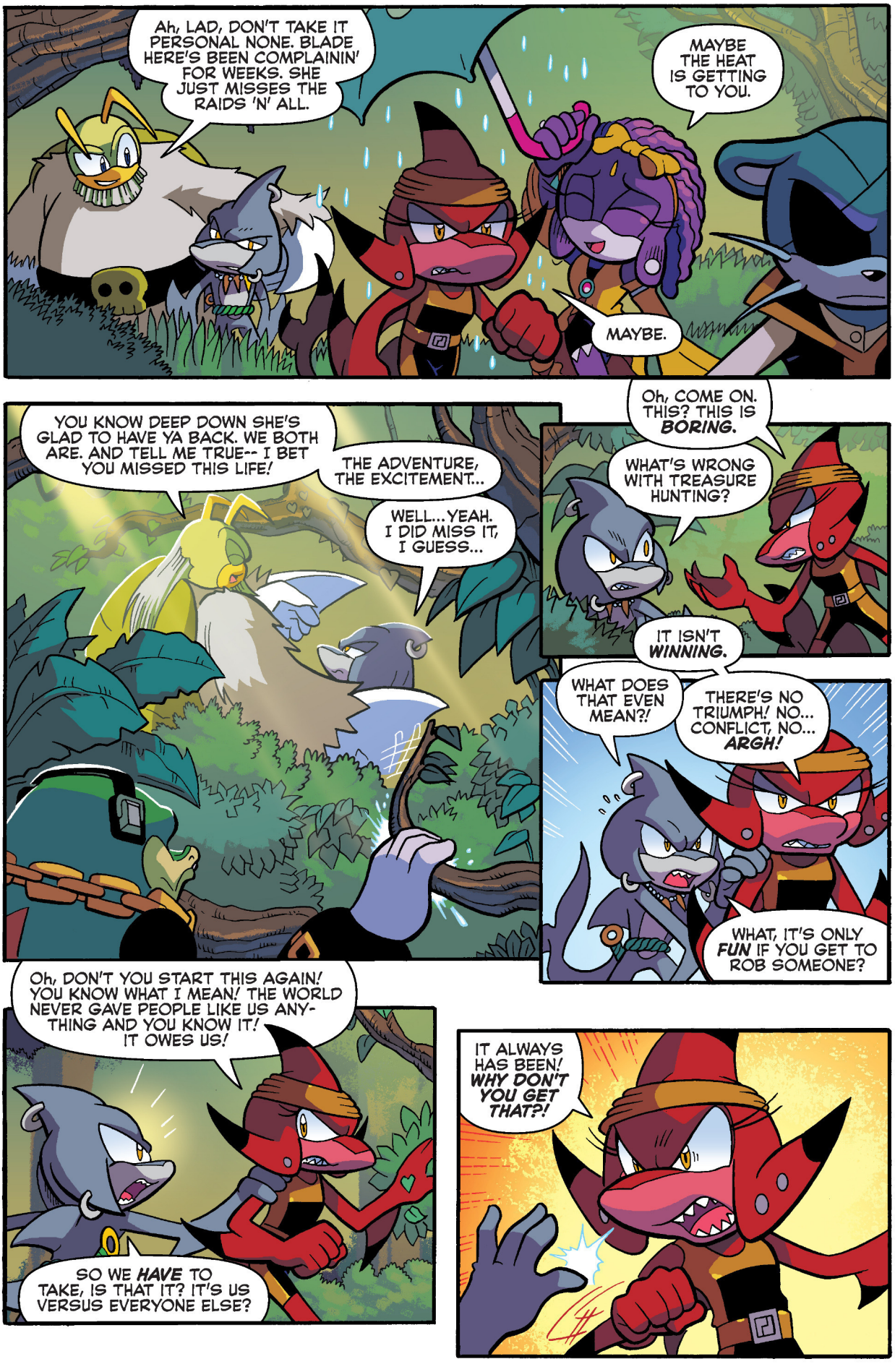

I'LL GET TO THAT. FIRST, HOW DOES THIS CELL OPEN? WHERE IS YOUR GEAR?
THERE'S A KEYCARD ON THAT BARREL, AND EVERYTHING IS IN THE LOCKER BEHIND YOU.
EXCELLENT.


IS THIS A BREAK-OUT?

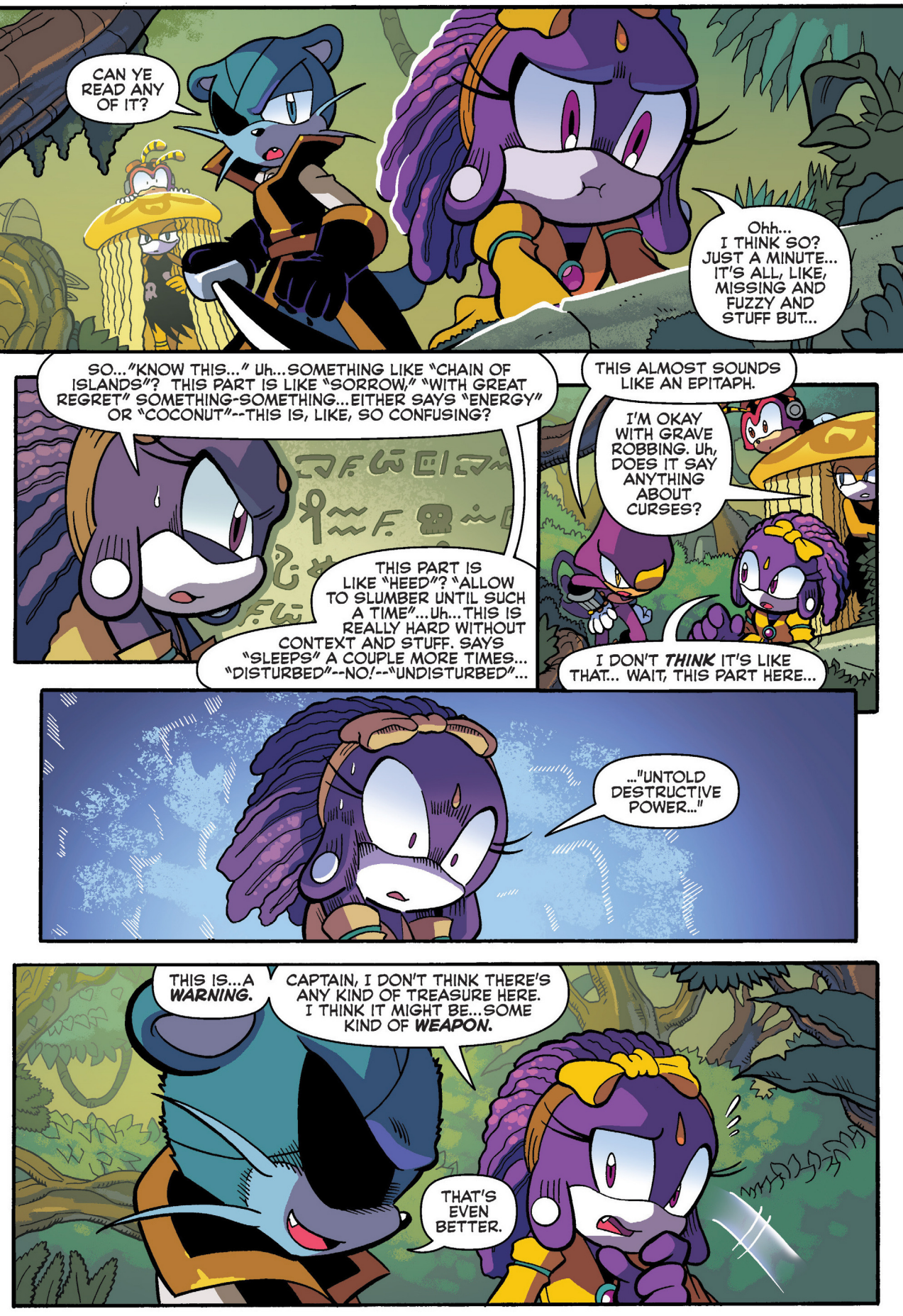
IT WILL BE.


LATER...
DIVE. STAY HERE AND WATCH THE BOAT, LAD.
YES, SIR!
WHAT, AFRAID SOMEONE MIGHT STEAL IT?
MORE LIKE WE DON'T WANT IT TO GET LOOSE AND DRIFT AWAY?
YEAH. UNLESS YOU *WANT* TO LUG WHATEVER WE FIND HERE BACK YOURSELF.
HAHA, RIGHT! MAKES SENSE. AND I GUESS IT'S NOT LIKELY THAT SOMEONE WOULD COME BY AND RUN OFF WITH THE SETTING DAWN WAY OUT HERE, Huh?
YER PARANOIA GROWS TIRESOME, MR. VECTOR. EVEN IF SOME FOOL *DID* BOARD MY SHIP, THEY WOULDN'T BE GETTIN' FAR.
RIGHT, RIGHT.
IF WE'RE GONNA PULL THIS OFF, WE *NEED* THE KEY TO THE SHIP.
NOW-- ONWARD, LADS 'N' LASSES!

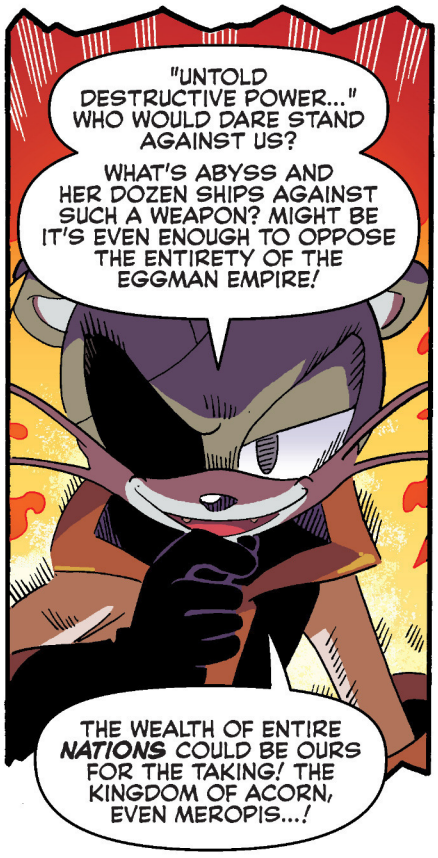

SNAP
'TIS JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, NO?
YOU REALLY SURPRISED AT THIS POINT, OLD MAN?
SO...ALL THE PLACES THESE CHARTS LED YOU...THEY'RE ALL THE SITES OF RUINS?
YUP.
WOOOOW! WHO BUILT THEM?
DUNNO.
I KNOW, RIGHT? THEY'RE ALL SO MYSTERIOUS AND HISTORICAL AND STUFF!
AWW. BUT THEY'RE SO COOL!
SO WHAT? THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THEM ARE LONG DEAD. THEY DON'T MATTER ANYMORE.
YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED AT ALL?
WE'VE SEEN TONS OF THESE SITES BY NOW. THE ONLY THING I'M INTERESTED IN IS PROFITING OFF WHATEVER WEIRD JUNK WE DIG UP HERE.
OKAY, BUT...IT'S KIND OF NEAT, YOU KNOW? DON'T YOU WONDER WHY THESE PEOPLE LEFT THEIR STUFF ALL OVER? OR WHY THESE CHARTS--
Ugh. RAZOR, WE'VE ALREADY GOT A LITTLE KID TAGGING ALONG HERE. YOU DON'T NEED TO ACT LIKE ONE, TOO.
WOW. THANKS FOR THAT.


Ah, LAD, DON'T TAKE IT PERSONAL NONE. BLADE HERE'S BEEN COMPLAININ' FOR WEEKS. SHE JUST MISSES THE RAIDS 'N' ALL.
MAYBE THE HEAT IS GETTING TO YOU.
MAYBE.
YOU KNOW DEEP DOWN SHE'S GLAD TO HAVE YA BACK. WE BOTH ARE. AND TELL ME TRUE-- I BET YOU MISSED THIS LIFE!
THE ADVENTURE, THE EXCITEMENT...
WELL...YEAH. I DID MISS IT, I GUESS...
Oh, COME ON. THIS? THIS IS BORING.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH TREASURE HUNTING?
IT ISN'T WINNING.
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?!
THERE'S NO TRIUMPH! NO... CONFLICT, NO... ARGH!
WHAT, IT'S ONLY FUN IF YOU GET TO ROB SOMEONE?
Oh, DON'T YOU START THIS AGAIN! YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN! THE WORLD NEVER GAVE PEOPLE LIKE US ANY-THING AND YOU KNOW IT! IT OWES US!
SO WE HAVE TO TAKE, IS THAT IT? IT'S US VERSUS EVERYONE ELSE?
IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN! WHY DON'T YOU GET THAT?!

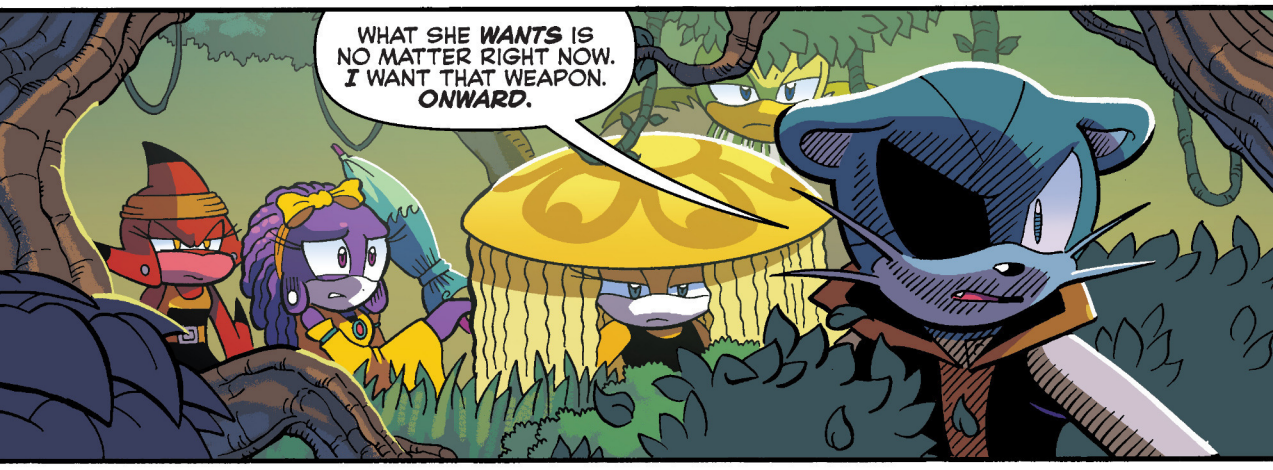
THAT'S ENOUGH, NOW, LASS.
TAKE IT EASY, THERE.
Uh, KID... YOU GONNA BE OKAY?
...YEAH. DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR PLAN.
NOT... *ENTIRELY* WHAT I MEANT.
I KNOW. IF ANYTHING IT MAKES THINGS EASIER.
STILL...GUESS I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO THINK IT MIGHT'VE BEEN DIFFERENT.
OUGHT TO LOCK THOSE TWO IN THE BRIG TILL THEY AGREE TO STOP BICKERING...
...OR KILL EACH OTHER, *HaHa!*
LADY DEENA! I'VE SOME-THING CURIOUS HERE.
Umm...I DON'T THINK WE'RE NEAR THE SPOT YET?
I'M AWARE...
...SO WHAT MAKE YOU OF THIS?

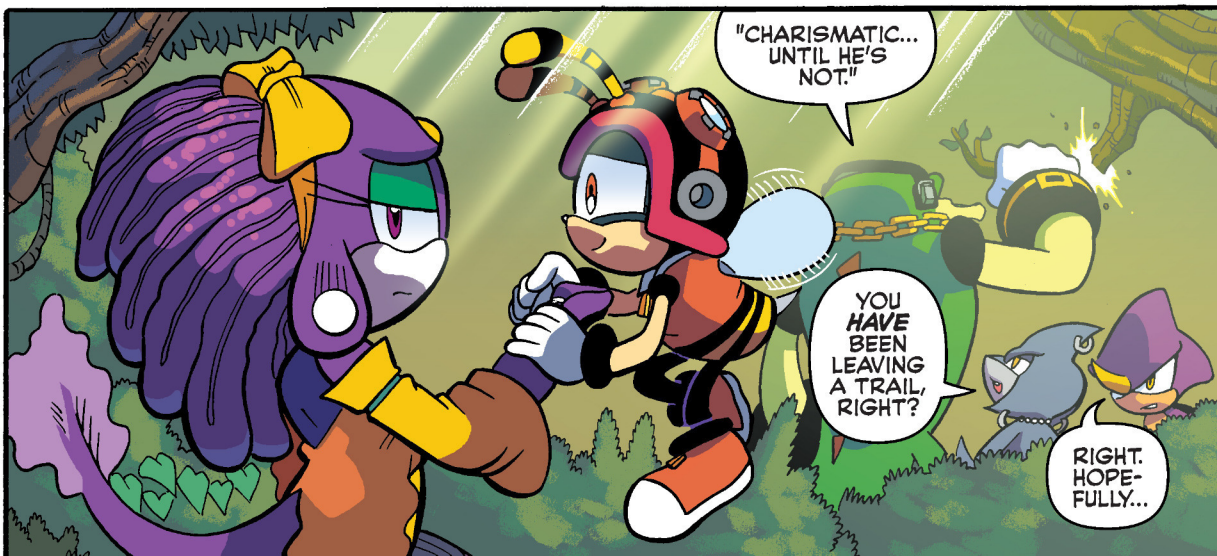

CAN YE READ ANY OF IT?
Ohh... I THINK SO? JUST A MINUTE... IT'S ALL, LIKE, MISSING AND FUZZY AND STUFF BUT...
SO..."KNOW THIS..." Uh...SOMETHING LIKE "CHAIN OF ISLANDS"? THIS PART IS LIKE "SORROW," "WITH GREAT REGRET" SOMETHING-SOMETHING...EITHER SAYS "ENERGY" OR "COCONUT"--THIS IS, LIKE, SO CONFUSING?
THIS PART IS LIKE "HEED"? "ALLOW TO SLUMBER UNTIL SUCH A TIME"...Uh...THIS IS REALLY HARD WITHOUT CONTEXT AND STUFF. SAYS "SLEEPS" A COUPLE MORE TIMES... "DISTURBED"--NO!--"UNDISTURBED"...
THIS ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE AN EPITAPH.
I'M OKAY WITH GRAVE ROBBING. Uh, DOES IT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT CURSES?
I DON'T *THINK* IT'S LIKE THAT... WAIT, THIS PART HERE...
..."UNTOLD DESTRUCTIVE POWER..."
THIS IS...A *WARNING.*
CAPTAIN, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY KIND OF TREASURE HERE. I THINK IT MIGHT BE...SOME KIND OF *WEAPON.*
THAT'S EVEN BETTER.

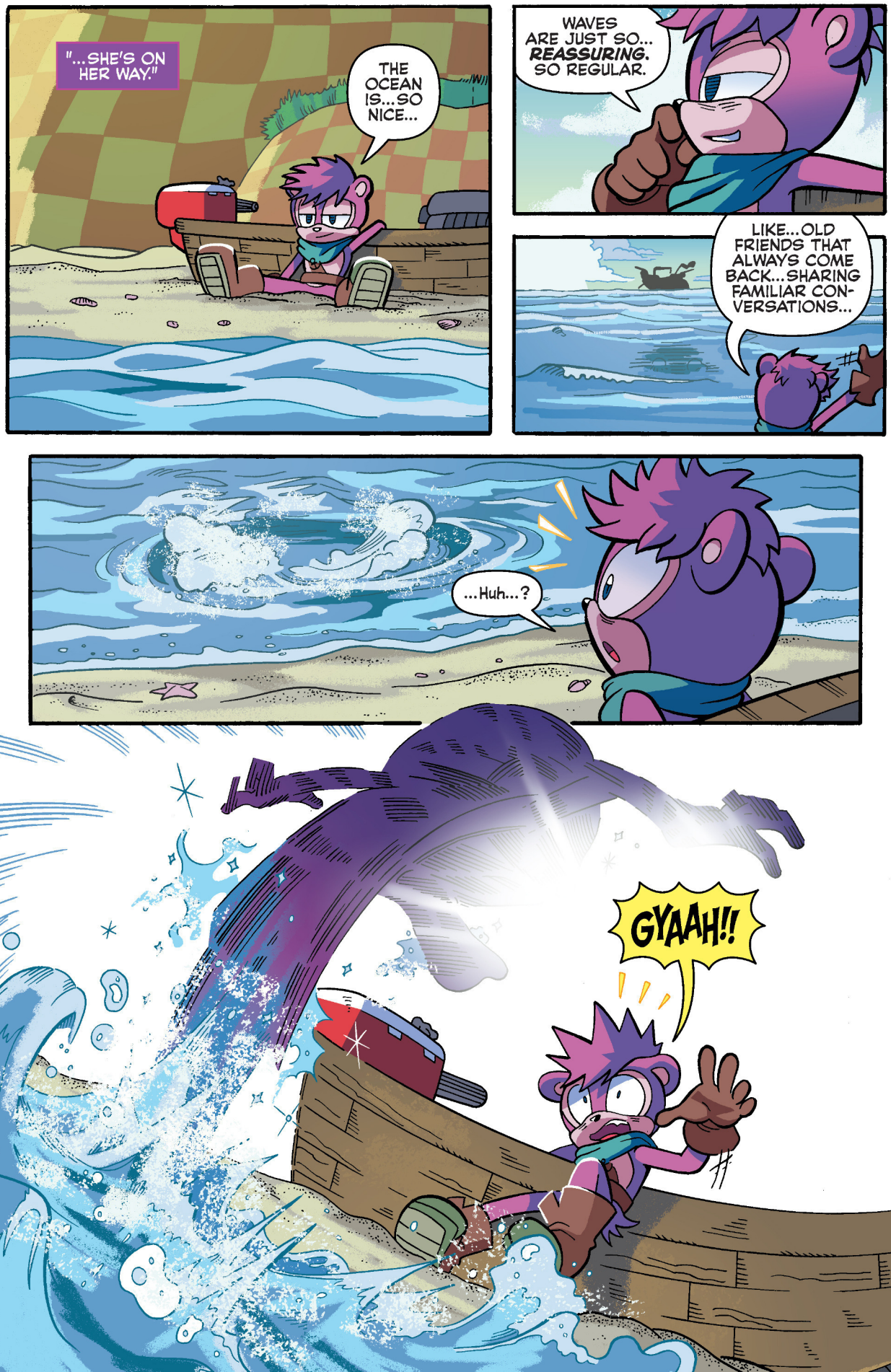
WHAT? B-BUT IT SAYS...NOT TO...
I TAKE NO ORDERS FROM LUMPS OF STONE, MISS DEENA.

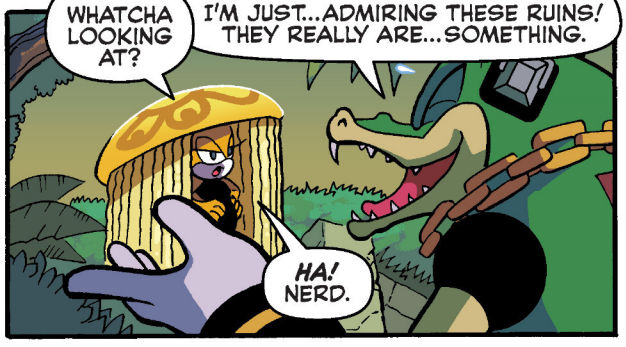

"UNTOLD DESTRUCTIVE POWER..." WHO WOULD DARE STAND AGAINST US?
WHAT'S ABYSS AND HER DOZEN SHIPS AGAINST SUCH A WEAPON? MIGHT BE IT'S EVEN ENOUGH TO OPPOSE THE ENTIRETY OF THE EGGMAN EMPIRE!
THE WEALTH OF ENTIRE NATIONS COULD BE OURS FOR THE TAKING! THE KINGDOM OF ACORN, EVEN MEROPIS...!

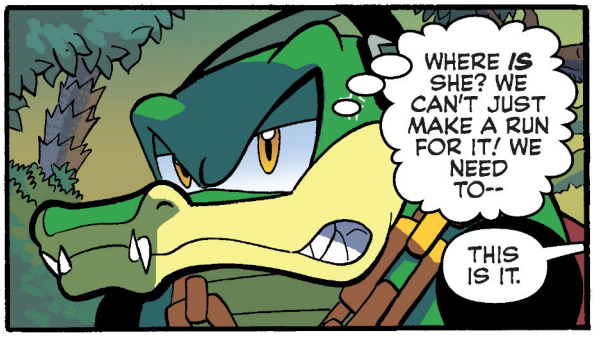
CAPTAIN... THAT'S MY HOME...
AW, C'MON. THEY COULD ALWAYS SURRENDER. BESIDES, IT'S NOT YOUR HOME ANYMORE, YEAH? DIDN'T YOU WANT THE FREEDOM TO TRAVEL?


WHAT SHE WANTS IS NO MATTER RIGHT NOW. I WANT THAT WEAPON. ONWARD.


"CHARISMATIC... UNTIL HE'S NOT."
YOU HAVE BEEN LEAVING A TRAIL, RIGHT?
RIGHT. HOPE-FULLY...


"...SHE'S ON HER WAY."
THE OCEAN IS...SO NICE...
WAVES ARE JUST SO... REASSURING. SO REGULAR.
LIKE...OLD FRIENDS THAT ALWAYS COME BACK...SHARING FAMILIAR CONVERSATIONS...
...Huh...?
GYAAH!!


WHATCHA LOOKING AT?
I'M JUST...ADMIRING THESE RUINS! THEY REALLY ARE...SOMETHING.
HA! NERD.


WHERE IS SHE? WE CAN'T JUST MAKE A RUN FOR IT! WE NEED TO--
THIS IS IT.

Um... ABOVE THE DOOR THERE...IT'S, LIKE, ASKING US TO LEAVE THIS PLACE ALONE...

Oh, WELL. THEY LEFT A SIGN ASKING US NOT TO TOUCH THEIR STUFF.
GUESS WE SHOULD LISTEN, YEAH? GOOD FAITH AND ALL.

AHAHAHAHA!!

CAPTAIN...
I THOUGHT I'D ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR: I DON'T CARE.
I AIM TO HAVE WHATEVER'S HIDDEN BEHIND THIS DOOR.
OPEN IT.
THE CHAOTIX HAVE A PLAN--BUT THEY MIGHT BE CUTTING IT CLOSE! IS HELP ON THE WAY? WHAT'S BEHIND THAT DOOR?! CAN OUR HEROES ESCAPE?! ALL THIS AND MORE NEXT TIME AS THE "CASE OF THE PIRATE PRINCESS" COMES TO A CLOSE!
UNTIL THEN DON'T MISS OUT ON MORE SONIC ACTION WITH SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

Letter from the EDITOR

Editorial commentary that floats like a butterfly, stings like a jellyfish!

WAIT! WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?!

Hello fans of anthropomorphic animals that go fast! Looks as if our heroes have stumbled upon something extremely dangerous and powerful, but what could it be?! A super weapon? That eighth Chaos Emerald from *Sonic the Fighters* that nobody remembers? A Chao that knows kung-fu?

DIVE
LEMMING

-WIDE-EYED, A LITTLE SPACEY/NERVOUS
-SLIGHT BAGS UNDER EYES
-TINY TAIL
-HAIR TENDS TO FALL IN HIS FACE
-NOT THAT YOU CAN SEE IT BUT THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE AN ANCHOR-SHAPED BUCKLE ON THE BELT ACROSS HIS CHEST
-ROLLED SCARF AROUND NECK (NOT TRIANGULAR)
-HAD SOME LIGHT PINK MARKINGS ON THE BACK/EARS BUT OOPS THAT PART OF THE FILE IS GONE. DITTO FOR HIS DAGGER.
-NOT ACTUALLY THREATENING
-LOOOOOVES THE OCEAN

Oh, Dive. Unless you count his probably broken bones, this poor dude can't catch a break. Eh, he's too zoned out to even realize anyway, so I guess it's all good?

OPAL
JELLYFISH

She's got style, she's got grace, she's a winner. She's a jellyfish lady. Whoa whoa whoa, she's a jellyfish lady.

Or maybe it's something completely out of Sonic's world! We'll find out what the hype is all about NEXT TIME! (or not) 'Till then, enjoy some cool concept art by Aleah Baker!

So long! **– Vincent "Vin" Lovallo**
Editor

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OFF PANEL

THINK "BEE" FORE YOU SPEAK OR OTTER YAR MIND

I BE THINKIN' ME LOOK NOT BE PIRATE ENOUGH.
I'VE AN IMAGE TO CONSIDER... PR'HAPS A SNAZZY HAT OF SOME SORT...?
OOH! OOH! I KNOW! TWO EYEPATCHES!
DID YE THINK THAT ONE THROUGH, LADDIE?
THINK WHAT THROUGH?
PR'HAPS I'LL JUST GO CHOP OFF ME HAND AND GET A HOOK...
'TWOULD BE LESS PAINFUL THAN DEALIN' WITH THE LIKES O' YOU.
OOH! AND A PEG LEG!!

SCRIPT: *ALEAH BAKER* PENCILS: *JENNIFER HERNANDEZ* INKS: *PATRICK WOODRUFF* COLORS: *ELAINA UNGER*

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